THE MIRACLE of MIRACLES.

aing a full and true Account of *Sarah Smith* Daughter of *John Sym* Farmer, who lately was an Inhabitant of Darken Pariſh in Eſſex, that brought to Bed of a ſtrange Monſter, the Body of it like a Fiſh v Scales thereon it had no Legs but a pair of Great Claws, Tallons like l Hands, it had Six Heads on its Neck, one was like the Face of a M with Eyes Noſe and Mouth to it, the 2d. like the Face of a Camm and its Ears Cropt, Two other Faces like Dragons with ſpiked Tong hanging out of their Mouths, Another like an Eagles Head wit Beak inſted of a Mouth at the end of it, and the laſt ſeeming to like a Calves head. Which eat and fed for ſome time, which Mon has Surpriſed many Thouſand People that came there to ſee it. Daily, Spectators flock to view it, but it was by Command of the gſtrates knock'd on the Head, and ſeveral Surgeons were there Diſſect it. Alſo you have a Funeral Sermon on the *Woman* v Brought it forth, being a very wicked Liver, and Diſobedient to her rents, and one that was mightily given to *Wiſhing*, Curſing and Swar with a Prayer before and after the ſaid Sermon. It being very fit Neceſſary to be had in all Families for a *Warning* to Diſobedient C dren. This ſtrange and unheard of Monſter was Brought into the *W* in May laſt, and if any doubt the truth thereof, it will be Certif by the Miniſter and Church-*Wardens* of the ſaid Pariſh of Darkin Eſſex as aforeſaid.

THE
Miracle of Miracles
OR

The Birth of a Strange Monstsr in Nature as ever was heard of It has but one Body, Six heads and two Claws for hands.

SARAH Smith was the Daughter of John Symons a Farmer, who was lately an Inhabitant of the Parrish of Darking in Essex, a plain down Right Honest Countty Farmer, he had this Child by his Wife who was Reckon'd to be not so good liver as she ought, and somewhat given to the Vice of the World, tho' clandestine she was in most of her Matters; this Girl was a Pretty Sort of a Creature, and was at last Married to one James Smith a Husband-man, and she being known to follow some of her Mothers Steps, soon Exceeded her in her Vices, and became in an Instant Mistriss of two Horrid ones more, viz. Swearing and Wishing bitter wishes, and about 3 months after her Marriage, she Grew with Child, but had many Strange and Amusing Dreams, which when she related to her Husband, would Strike him in Astonishment.

One time she Dream'd she was with Child of an

Horse.

Horſe, another time of a Cammel, and another time of a Dragon that did threaten to kill and Devower her, and abundance of ſuch frightful Dreams, but the Day before ſhe fell in Labour, ſhe fell into a Strong Sleep in the Middle of the Day, and then Dream'd ſhe was brought to bed with a Strange Monſter with Twelve Heads that Suck'd her hearts Blood out, and awaking out of it She fell into ſuch an Agony and Trembling that She was not able to hold a Joynt ſtill, She Quaked ſo much for very fear.

This brought on her Travelling pains, and She thought it would be her Labour, and her Husband poor man went and call'd in the Neighbourhood and the Midwife, who all ſet down in Expectation of her Delivery, but the pains ſoon abated and went off, but her Fits of Trembling and Quaking continued to purpoſe, and being frighted at her Dream which She told the Company, they perſwaded her that Dreams were Fabulous, and Comforted her up, and ſaid they did not Queſtion but She won'd be ſafely brought to Bed, and with a Child in its right Shape.

After they had pretty well appeaſed her Paſſion, and giving her ſome ſatisfaction in the matter, She began to come pretty well to her Self, and about two hours after her Pains Returning, She had a very ſtrong and ſevere Labour, and the Midwife perceiving one of the Monſters Heads, ran away from the Woman, and won'd have left her in that fright for good and all, but the Husband being by, Leck'd the Door, and Commanded the Midwife to do her Duty upon pain of Death, for he ſaid he would kill her if She refuſed to do her Office, which made her take Courage, and at laſt with much a doe She brough her to Bed of this Monſter, tho' the Woman dyed in her Delivery.

This Monſter had a Body like to a Dolphin with Scales thereon, it had no Legs but a pair of Great Clay-

Claws Tallon'd like two Hands, which it was thought it would go on if it had been Suffer'd, it had Six heads and but one Neck, one was like the Face of a Man with Eyes Nose and Mouth to it, the 2d. like the Face of a Cammell, and its Ears Crop'd, two other faces like Dragons with Spiked Tongues hanging out of their Mouths, another like an Eag e's head with a Beak (inſted of a Mouth) at the end of it, and the laſt ſeeming to be like a Calves Head, theſe ſaid Mouths were fed for ſome time, but by the Command of the Magiſtrates it was Deſtroy'd, ſeveral Surgeons there were at the Diſſection of it, and Thouſands of People was there to ſee it, but it was at laſt Nail'd up in the Coffin with its Mother in Order to be buryed with her.

The Whole Multitude being gather'd together Carryed her into the Church in order to hear the Sermon that was Preached upon that occaſion, which is as followeth.

The SERMON.

Go thy way, and ſhew my People their ſinful Deeds, and their Children their Wickedneſs, which they have done againſt me, that they may tell their Childrens Children thereof, that they may do no more fooliſhly.

MY Beloved, We are aſſembled here this Day, upon a ſtrange and Miraculous Occaſion; pardon me, I do not mean our Aſſembling and Meeting here, in order to hear this Sermon, is Miraculous, no, far be it from me, or any of you to think ſo; but that which I am to treat of is the Almighty's Miracles, is the wondrous Things that his Almighty Power is able to do amongſt us: We have read of all the great Miracles

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that he did when he delivered his People, and brought them out of the Land of Egypt; of those many great Plagues with which Pharaoh was plagued, because he would not let the Children of Israel go, these, I say, we have Read of, which has very much surprized Us indeed.

But now what I am going to Treat of, is that which all yours, and my Eyes have seen, viz. One of the strangest Monsters as ever was heard of, so Miraculous are all the Works of the Lord, and so many several Ways has he to bring them forth, that it does even drown'd and overcome all those poor Senses we are left Masters of.

'Twill not here be much amiss to let this Great Auditory know and hear from my Mouth what this strange Monster was, for tho' many have hear'd of it, yet Reports are so various, that I will give a short but true Account of it.

The Deceased, you all know, was not so Obedient a Child to her Parents as she ought, or as they might have reasonably expected, for she was given a little too much to her Mother's Vices, which I shall not here repeat, because they are very well known to too many of the Neighbourhood, all that I shall mention are her Sins of Disobedience, and her Undutifulness to her Parents, she would never do any thing she was bid, or if she did, it was so very unwillingly, that she was three times as long a doing of it as any other Person; if bid to look after any thing, she would leave it to the Mercy of the wide World, and away go to play, and never return 'till she was an hungry; her Mother was once sick, and during her Sickness, she ne'ere so much as hardly ask'd how she did, or got her any thing to eat or Drink, but almost starved her to Death, nay, and went away gaddidg to play, while other People Robbed her of almost all what she had: To come to a Conclusion of her Wickedness, she

would eat what she could get, never strive to earn a Penny, and expected her Aged Parents should maintain her in Idleness; she was a very grievous Curser and Swearer, a Gamster, and would play her Parents Money away, and when any thing were mist, which they suspected she had got, she would wish much strange Wishes as scarcely were heard of.

In a Word, she was, as it were, a Monster in Nature, and as she acted a Monster, so she died of a Monster: Amongst which, I say, has surprised our whole Country, it had a Body like a Fish, with Scales thereon, it had no Legs but a pair of great Claws, Talon'd like two Hands, it had six Heads on, one Neck, one Face like a Mans with Eyes, Nose and Mouth to it, the Second like the Face of a Cammel, with its Ears Crepp'd, two other Faces like Dragons, with spked Tongues hanging out of their Mouths, another like an Eagles Head, with a Beak instead of a Mouth at the end of it, and the last seeming to be like a Calve's Head, all which Heads and Mouths fed for some time, but you know it ended the poor Wretch's Life, who was made this horrid and Unnatural Spectacle, for her great Disobedience to her Parents, and for her profuse living and neglecting of her Aged Parents, and for her bitter Cursing and Swearing, and for her Monstrous and unheard of new framed Wishes, which the Disposer of all things suffered to be inflicted on her in this Life, in which you have all heard of, and many here present have seen; I say the Almighty suffered her, as she was a Monster in Nature, and as she lived a Monster, so I say, she died of a Monster. Which my Beloved, I hope will awaken all Disobedient Children, and recall 'em to their Duty to their own Natural Parents, which that it may do, is the hearty Wishes of your constant Supplicant, who at the Throne of Grace, will never cease to put up his Prayers to the Almighty King of Kings, that he would keep

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us all here from Stubborn Hearts, that are wickedly inclined to Diſobedience to Parents; and that he would be pleaſed to keep us from all Raſh Oaths, Curſing and Swearing, and from all Vain Wiſhes againſt others, and our ſelves, that we may never, never fall into the like Judgment of Monſters, as this poor Creature has done, which ſhall always be the Prayers of your daily Orator, who will conſtantly beg it at the Throne of Grace, to him, and the Bleſſed Spirit, be aſcribed all Praiſe and, both now and for evermore, AMEN.

THE PRAYER.

PRevent us, O Lord, in all our Doings, and further us by thy continual Help, that all our Works begun, they may be continued and ended in thee through Chriſt our Lord. And as we are at this time aſſembled, and met together to call upon his holy Name, Grant us forgiveneſs of all our Sins, Mollify all obdurate Hearts; and herein we beſeech thee, in a more eſpecial manner, make them Humble, Obedient and Contrite, that we may all be able to Anſwer the End of our Creation, by Renewing our ſelves to work all manner of Righteouſneſs in thy ſight, that we may be obedient to all in Authority over us, whether it be to the Queen as Supreme, or unto all inferior Magiſtrates under her Authority: Oh enable us to Obey our Parents

in all things, whether they be Froward or of a meek Spirit, and let us not be lead away with every Fangle of our own Brain, taking only that for Good that is moſt hurtful to us; and let thy Heavenly Will be Eſtabliſhed in our Hearts, that we may for ever gloriſie thy holy Name from Age to Age, to all Eternity; and this we beg alone, through the *Merits* of our Saviour Chriſt, the Lord of Life, who liveth and Reigneth with thee from Age to Age, to all Eternity, World without *End*.

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Entred in the Hall Book according to Order.